

[The Navajos]

Subject: THE NAVAJOS - S-240 - Folk-Ways

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Original Copy, Not Rewritten.

Wordage: 260

Date: August 31, 1936.

Approved: Ina Sizer Cassidy, State Director.

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Garcia; Raines

8/31/36 - cl-260

THE NAVAJOS

My great-grandfather's house was a low adobe structure with a wide veranda on three sides of the inner court and a still broader one across the entire front, which faced the south. These verandas, especially tho'se on the inner court, were supplementary rooms to the house and in [htem?] a greater part of the family life went on. There the women said their prayers, took their siestas, and wove their laces. There the herdsman and shepherds

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smoked and trained their dogs. All the family life centered around the verandas, with no fear of the Navajos, as the house was well protected by a high adobe wall.

One starry night every one was seated on the veranda. My great-grandmother was telling her children about her childhood days in Spain. Suddenly there came the shoops of a band of Indians, their fiendish yells coming nearer and nearer. My great-grandfather was a brave old man. He ordered his children not to move, confident that the high adobe wall would keep out invaders. My grandfather, who was the youngest of the family, gave a loud cry and pointed to the wall. His mother looked up and saw about fifty Indian warriors clambering over the wall. She sprung from her chair and called for help. She seized the younger children and ran to a neighbor's house to ask for help. Her husband and the older boys stayed to fight.

When help came, it was too late, for the Indians had already left taking with them everything they could. The house, before comfortable and beautiful, was now a ruin, and, worst of all, two of the Garcia boys had been killed in the struggle.

Mr. Garcia thought he would take revenge by going into the Indian village and attempting to lay it waste. A month afterwards, he and some friends departed for the Indian camp. There Mr. Garcia lost another of his sons, whom the Indians took prisoner.

Unable to rescue the boy, Mr. Garcia returned home. Before the party left however, they seized a little Navajo girl, whom they brought home with them.

The girl grew to be a great help to the family. Later she married a Spanish youth. She died only a few years ago, leaving to survive her a daughter, whom we love as if she were of our own blood.